

# Agriculture and Husbandry

## Walnut Menace

If insect pests had a slogan, "No rest for the entomologists" would be the gist of it.

To a number of walnut growers has come hard luck, the walnut husk fly (*Rhagoletis juglandis*), cousin to the Mediterranean fruit fly, the husk fly has the same effect on walnuts as the fruit fly has on citrus products. Eggs are laid under the surface, hatch into larvae (grubs), larvae eat the hull, cause the kernel to mold, ruin the crop. In the ground they take refuge in the winter and start all over again the following summer.

Problem: To find a means of eradication. Entomologists have experimented with many sorts of sprays. At Chino, Entomologist Boyce is studying the pest's life history, habits, experimenting with sprays to kill bugs in the adult stage. He has found that the adults feed for ten to fourteen days before they lay any eggs. During this period, he hopes to eradicate most of them by arsenical spray. Making difficult its localization, the husk fly is equipped with a strong body and swift, strong wings. Three miles from an infested location it suddenly appears, adds menace to the walnut industry.

**Solution:** The State Department of Agriculture at Sacramento, knowing the husk fly to be most prevalent around Chino, is endeavoring to isolate it to that district. Thus will the rest of California be afforded protection. In one instance the department covered five acres of walnut lands with heavy tar paper sealed up all edges, openings. Its purpose was to confine the adult flies as fast as they emerged from the soil. Obviously they were killed because they had no food. The walnuts in that orchard were uninfested.

In a second case, nicotine dust was applied every two days to a grove. Eradicators hoped to kill the flies as quickly as they emerged from the ground.

The horticultural commissioners' offices in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties are co-operating with a spray program in the Chino area, using information furnished by Entomologist Boyce. As the annual walnut growers field day on September 7 will be exhibited a control plot. And in connection with it Entomologists Gannon and Boyce of the University of California and State Department of Agriculture, respectively, will explain in detail the husk fly control program. The walnut growers field day will be held at the La Puente Walnut Growers packing house, at Puente.

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Astounding is the increase in walnut production in San Fernando Valley this year. Just twice as much crop was harvested this season as last, states the Walnut Growers' Association.

About 1000 tons of nuts will be shipped from packing houses. So many workers are needed to handle this 100 per cent increase in production that two crews are kept busy at shipping quarters handling the crop.

Estimates place dilution of output to three causes: Present fine growing season; trees loaded with nuts; numerous young groves just now coming into fall bearing for the first time.

Reports number the acres planted to walnuts in San Fernando Valley at 10,000. Bulk of production comes from central and western parts of the Valley. Previously eastern sections predominated in output.

## Fly Vigil Successful

Not wasted were the ceaseless efforts and the tireless vigil of state inspectors and fruit growers in their fight to keep from California borders the insidious Mediterranean fruit fly, California's struggle to quell the invasion of this threatening pest has been successful, said the State Department of Agriculture last week. Thus, annoyed travelers whose fresh fruit had been sliced, mangled, when searching inspectors sought fly larvae, may now feel their inconvenience not in vain.

In his report, G. H. Hecke, director of the State Department of Agriculture, declared that virtually every orchard and market in the State had been inspected since May. Not one trace was found of the dread insect, ravager of the Florida fruit crop. More than 200 men engaged by the department have inspected 12,126 orchards.



CHINO'S WALNUT HUSK FLY EXPERIMENT

They put tar paper rugs over walnut bugs.

45,103 markets and packing houses, looked individually into 614,287 boxes of produce.

Vigilant California farmers, eager to co-operate with the State, captured and sent in to the department several hundred suspicious insect specimens. None of them proved to be of the hunted species. But 228 of them were sent to the National Agricultural headquarters for positive determination.

Hecke last week thought the battle had been won, except for danger due to tourists bringing in odd bits of infested fruit.

Said Hecke: "We cannot close our eyes to the fact that infestation is still possible. But knowledge that every orchard of ripening fruit in Southern California has been at least inspected once without finding trace of the fly, makes us feel confident that it is not here."

Continual state-wide survey will be kept up, however, as long as there is any possibility of the fly entering California from other infested areas.

## Bug Factory

In the little town of Rivera, last spring, 4,000,000 lives were lost. The branch county insectary located there, burned down. But the 4,000,000 insects that died in the fire did not die in vain. For the Board of Supervisors last week voted \$29,000 for a new modern insectary, a memorial to the dead, capable of accommodating 6,000,000 ladybird beetles.

The uninitiated will ask: "Why build a home for ladybird beetles?" The initiated will hasten to tell them how the ladybird beetle is propagated in the insectary on mealbugs, on potato sprouts, how it is finally turned loose in orchards, how it eats predatory insects.

Modern equipment, mass production methods will make it possible to produce ladybirds at a cost of less than one-fourth of a cent per beetle. Until the new insectary is completed, producers will have to pay one-half a cent for each insect. Therefore the new modern bug factory is being rushed to completion.

## Corona Citrus Returns

Large are the returns of Corona's citrus fruit season this year. An estimate last week placed \$9,000,000 as the amount received in that area by citrus growers.

Small in size, but larger in quantity has made an even balance in the season's crop. The average box-size of Navals was 249.7 as compared with 186.9 last year. Valencia's were 278.3 in average box-size this season as compared with 208 for 1923.

Weather conditions, much especially, have caused much of the fruit to drop as it was setting. Authorities are of the opinion that

next year's crop will be about 50 per cent of this year's. In size, fruit is expected to be considerably larger.

## Mrs. Drum's Frost

Frost brought Mrs. Christine Drum of San Diego \$19,000. Dollars of the sum were Phillips & Hambaugh and the Realty & Construction Corporation. Cause for the giving of the money was a broken promise. Occasion which demanded the payment of the amount was a decision by Judge J. T. B. Warner.

The story is as follows: Mrs. Drum purchased land near San Diego from Phillips & Hambaugh, and the Realty & Construction Company. It was her purpose to raise avocados. On their honor, the realty companies said there was no frost for miles around. Mrs. Drum planted her trees in all good faith. Then came the frost. Then came her law suit. Then came the \$19,000 judgment.

## Sick Bees

Many are the problems of mankind. Diseases of bees is a major one on the mind of Inspector W. Atchley, bee inspector of San Bernardino County. Through his efforts diseased bees have been reduced in number from 2598 colonies to 984 colonies during the last eighteen months.

Rife also among insects, animals and plants, disease among bees is considered serious by honey raisers. Lately, in San Bernardino, "American Foulbrood" has been a pestilence contracted by bees. If unchecked, this disease stops reproduction and results in final extinction.

Two years ago bee inspection in California was placed under the State Department of Agriculture. Previous to that, San Bernardino, with 80,000 colonies of bees, had taken the matter into its own hands, employed an inspector half time.

## Orange Fair

Twelve years of experience standing the good record, officials of the 32 District Agricultural Association saw their carefully prepared County Community Fair begin its six day program on Wednesday, Aug. 23. At Santa Ana, the fairgrounds teemed with people exhibiting.

Ultimately, the program was planned as follows: August 28-29, Horse Show, Trained Animal Acts and Racing; August 30-31 Rodeo Program, Racing and Comedy Features. Sunday, September 1, American Legion Day, afternoon concerts with songs by the Women's Glee Club of Santa Ana. Post American Legion Auxiliary, Liverock Parade, American Legion Drums Corps Contest, September 2,

## Rodeo program

Sixty outlaw bronchos from Montana, wild cattle from the plains of New Mexico, many trick riders and ropers, will go toward making the Rodeo of the last day interesting. And throughout the whole program, a Rodeo atmosphere will be created by presence of thirty full blood Indians under Sioux Chief Blackhawk. They will maintain an Indian Village on the fairgrounds.

Breaking its own record the Fair will award nearly \$7,000 in prizes. Over \$700 will go to winners in the poultry division. Principal among the exhibits is that of "Sub-Tropical Fruit."

## Ventura's Fair

For one who seeks a comprehensive, neatly arranged idea of Ventura County's resources, no more logical place to look is Ventura's County Fair. A magnificent show of industrial and agricultural exhibits, more complete than has ever been collected before, last week was being brought together to show the vast resources of the County. On September 12 the public will get its first glimpse of the array.

Ventura believes it has the only fairgrounds in America "right on the seashore." The setting is perfect, it is declared. The cooling breezes from the sea make it pleasant, comfortable.

Outside the actual exhibits and shows in importance is the display and program to be given by the American Legion drum corps. A dozen drum corps of the American Legion from Glendale, Pasadena, San Bernardino, Ontario, Long Beach, Santa Barbara, Redlands, Riverside, Hollywood, Los Angeles, and other places will compete in drills for \$750 in cash prizes. Most colorful is this event to be.

New in the list of departments at the fair will be the citrus fruit exhibit. One side of a huge tent will be occupied by it. Every Ventura citrus distributing organization has announced its intention of aiding in this exhibit, says County Commissioner of Horticulture A. H. Call. In this newest feature of Ventura's fair, racks upon racks of lemons and oranges will form a yellow and orange background not often witnessed.

A few years ago at the Ventura Fair, horse shows were discontinued, abandoned. Popular sentiment, however, has recalled them, and horse-fanciers will be provided with an equine exhibition this year. Prominent horse owners have signified their intention of competing in this division of the fair. Also in connection with the equine division, chariot races are promised. From the State Fair (Sacramento), Tom Clark will bring horses for this race.

For the industrial exhibits, most of the space has been already sold. Autos will be brought for exhibit

in large numbers. Live stock, horses, cows, hogs, poultry, goat and rabbit shows, and a dog show, will be complete to the last detail.

From every Ventura community comes the throng of exhibits. Oxnard, Santa Paula, Saticoy-Simi Valley, Fillmore, Moore Park, Mound, Camarillo and Ventura they flock. From other counties too they come, from Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles.

## Riverside Prepares

In space of time, Southern California's annual fair is not far off. True to California tradition it has been improved and enlarged since the year 1912 when it first began. Also traditional was the announcement last week by sponsors' secretary, Mrs. C. G. Cravens, that she expects the attendance to exceed that of any other year. At any rate, accommodation for extra thousands of people have been made at the fair's Riverside location. On September 24 it will commence; on September 29 it will come to an end.

To the Forty-sixth District Agricultural Association goes all credit for its organization. For cattle, goat, sheep and swine exhibits, they have arranged. Buzzing bees in apiaries will be shown, heard. Poultry, peacocks, rabbits will be on display. Activities of women will be reviewed, horticulturalists will have space to exhibit their produce, accomplishments. Educators will uncover facts, knowledge.

In beauty, cattle and swine, turkeys and carrots, are lacking. But sponsors of the fair have decreed that beauty shall be there. Hence the presence last week of a corps of twenty landscape gardeners, making pretty the fair grounds with a profusion of flowers, color. As if in opposition, other workmen last week dug and hammered, enlarging accommodations for the livestock.

Amusements, always a magnetic feature to any fair or exhibition, have been attracted to Riverside. Many fun concessions, side shows, have arranged to be present, for rich is the harvest to be reaped by them at any fair.

Most entertaining and exciting of all amusements are the horse-races. Always a feature of the Southern California Fair this division will bring many of the country's finest horses to Riverside to compete. Sleek pacers, and trotters will soon be seen practicing on the track there. Many a track record is in danger of being broken.

President of the Southern California Fair is George W. Thomas. His assistants: August Rohrbacher, vice-president; H. B. Wells, treasurer; Mrs. C. G. Cravens, secretary.

## Thirsty Cattle

Thirty cattle last month were denouncing the fact that water was scarce on grazing lands throughout the State. In California cattle have been hard pressed for sufficient feed and water. Lack of rain and a resultant scarcity of range food have worried cattlemen, the Federal August Crop and Livestock Reporting Bureau stated last week.

The condition of ranges and pastures was estimated to be 68 per cent normal as compared with 69 per cent the month before and 79 per cent this time last year.

The board said: "Only in a few areas are pastures and ranges supplying the normal amount of feed. On the whole, cattle have not been able to maintain average condition this season."

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